RAJYA SABHA

Friday, tht 30th April, 1993/10th *'aisakha,* 1915 *(Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the ock, **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Discrimination against disabled persons

*81. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE:†
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward a legislation to stop discrimination against the disabled persons, if so, the salient features of the legislation; and

(b) by when the bill is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Attempts are being made to introduce the bill in the current session.

SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: As there is no report with me to put my question, I havo to base my question on the Performance Budget of the Ministry of Welfare, and also the Demands for Grants, Ministry of Welfare. I do not know how the institutions in different areas of disabilities are working. There is a National Institute for Visually Handicapped at Dehra Dun. There is another National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped in Bombay. The third is the National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped at Calcutta. The fourth is the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped at Secundarabad. The fifth is the National Institute of Rehabilitation, Training and Research in Orissa. And then there is the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India at Kanpur. How are these institutions working in the field of disability training and also rehabilitation? Both the questions of rehabilitation and training are very important with regard to employment of the disabled. I give an example. Shrimati Fatima Ismail, an ex-Member of this House, who was a pioneer in the polio treatment, informed me that a case came to her for treatment of polio. The boy could not be cured. His feet remained crippled But academically he was very brilliant. He topped in all the examinations from lower standard to the M.A. standard. But whenever he tried for a service he was not selected because of his crippled legs, even though he topped everywhere. Then a UN team came here. They examined him and found him very intelligent and gave him a letter of appointment. The young boy said: "But, Sir, my legs..." The Chairman of the UNO Commission replied to him: "We are concerned with your brain and not with your legs." So, he could get employment through a team of UN, but not in India. That is the case everywhere. I have seen many brilliant scholars.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: I have narrated how these national institutes are working, what is the scope of their work, what are their training programmes, and what are their rehabilitation programmes.

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the hon. Member said, the national institutes of different categories are working to promote and help the handicapped people. We know that today in India about 10 per cent of the people are handicapped in

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bishambhar Nath Pande.

different capacities. Our main idea is to bring a Bill to prevent religious disability, social disability, medical disability, services and commercial disabilities and also any of the disabilities which occur in the way of normal life. These disabled people are also our brothers and sisters. They must also be equally treated. That treatment is not there today. They are not getting the same treatment like other citizens. The very idea of this Bill is to bring those people to normal life. That is the main feature of this Bill.

SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the answer is not very clear. I want to know the scope of training and the area of rehabilitation. The answer has not come. There is a list of nearly 252 voluntary organisations who are working in this field in five States and Union Territories. I want to know, what is their scope of work? The beneficiaries are nearly 62,872. What has been the result of their services? There are other spheres also like leprosy-cured patients and their rehabilitation. May I know from the Minister whether the Bill also provides for the treatment and rehabilitation of leprosy patients? I want a clear answer for this so that we may welcome the Bill that is going to be presented to both the Houses of Parliament. There are very brilliant people among the handicapped persons. One of them was Mr. Sadan Gupta, a Lok Sabha Member. He was a blind person. He made tremendous contribution to parliamentary practice in our country. Such persons can come up, provided they are given an opportunity. So I want an answer to the scope of training and the scope of re habilitation of the handicapped persons.

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: The four institutes which have been mentioned by me as well as by the hon. Member are engaged in research, training, rehabilitation and treatment in the respective disability areas. During the year 1991-92, for the promotion of this area the allocation was Rs. 38 crores. During 1992-93, we have allocated Rs. 36 crores; and for 1993-94, Rs. 41 crores. In the Eighth Plan also, the allocation is Rs. 214 crores. This money has been allocated to this sector mainly for the promotion, training, rehabilitation and to help these people to come forward and become eligible like other citizens. Sir, in 1992-93 only 42,811 people have become beneficiaries of our programmes. There are 302 organisations, voluntary organisations, who were helped and these organisations are doing a yeoman service in this sector. With regard to training and rehabilitation, many eligible people have become self-reliant in their respective fields. The Government is considering the Bill because there are some disabilities which should not....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can you kindly conclude?

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: To overcome the difficulties only, we want to give them social protection by way of a legislation.

CHOWDHURY HARI SINGH: Hon. Chairman, Sir, the Minister has given a half reply. He has given the answer that attempts are being made to introduce the Bill in the current Session. It is not only a half answer to the question, but a half-hearted one also. The main question was about the main features of the Bill. But the Minister has been very silent on this aspect. I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Bill will have such provisions and sections as to improve the conditions of the disabled, destitutes and handicapped persons. Will it also have provisions for monitoring the implementation of the reservation for them in respect of their admission in educational institutions and their jobs, both private and Government? Will the Bill also provide for a National Trust for their welfare, having a huge fund with it? Will the Bill also have some provisions to have, in every uni-

versity, the Braille script in every language so that the blind may get education in every university?

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: Sir, I fully agree with the hon. Member. He was saying that it was a half answer. I have got the full answer. And, I am giving the full answer again now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the same answer?

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: I will mention again the salient features of the proposed Bill. They are: (1) to prevent religious disability, (2) to prevent social disability, (3) to prevent medical disability and (4) to prevent service and commercial disability and also other disabilities.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: What do you mean by 'to prevent medical disability'?

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: There are cases when the disabled people go to the hospital, they are not given proper treatment. Sometimes, they are not even allowed to come there. These are the problems they are facing.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Kindly check your words. Do not say 'prevent'.

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: This Bill will certainly remove all the anomalies. That is why we are contemplating to bring the Bill, that too within this Session. The main idea in our bringing this Bill is this. This sector cannot be disconnected from or discriminated against by the other sections. They should also have an equal right to live and equal right to perform their duties and should get all the rights in the socio-economic fields.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, thank you. Mr. Ashis Sen.

SHRI ASHIS SEN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very thankful to our esteemed colleague, Shri Bishambhar Nath Pande, for raising this question. I thank him for that. The number of physically handicapped people in different forms is too big. There are so many training institutes in different parts of the country which my friend has already quoted. One problem that is being faced is that in many institutes funds are allocated but year after year the allocation of funds to the voluntary organisations is getting reduced and the very purpose of saying that you want to help the handicapped people is not being served properly. Yeoman service they give but the funds are not properly allocated. Will the Minister please say that the funds will not be curtailed? National institutes are there, hospitals are there, but there are insufficient arrangements for hearing handicapped, just like in the Institute of Physically Handicapped. Now the discrimination part of it is coming, because in some of the Institutes there are efficient physically handicapped people who can run and administer these institutes, but instead of giving them priority, others who are not physically handicapped are being put forward to run these institutes. Among the physically handicapped there are some capable and suitable persons. I would like to ask the Minister whether those capable persons should be allowed to run these institutes or some other persons only for administrative purposes should be allowed to run these institutes.

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: Sir, as regards his first question, we will not curtail any help of the voluntary agencies because voluntary agencies in this sector are doing very good work and that work is commendable. We would help them in whatever manner they want and the Government is open and the Government is willing to help any number of voluntary agencies coming into this line and help the disabled people.

Secondly, Sir, he was asking about the question of employment. When the disabled persons go there, they are not properly helped. Government will certainly look into this issue and give preference to the disabled persons on first priority.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : सभापति महोदय मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय कल्याण मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि विकलांगों के कल्याण और पुनर्वास के लिए कौन कौन सी योजनाएं हैं ? क्या अलग अलग राज्यों में विकलांग सहायता केन्द्र बनाए गए हैं, यदि बनाए गए हैं तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है ? साथ ही विकलांगों की सहायता के लिए जो 302 वालेंटरी आर्गेनाइजेशन की मदद ली जा रही है उनको अभी तक कितनी वित्तीय मदद दी गई है ? क्या कल्याण मंत्रालय की तरफ से कोई मोनिटेरिंग सिस्टम है ? क्या उस मोनिटेरिंग सिस्टम से मंत्री जी संतुष्ट हैं और जिस मकसद के लिए उनको सहायता दी गई है क्या उस लक्ष्य की पूर्ति में सफल साबित हुए हैं ?

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : अपनी विकलांग सरकार का भी इलाज पूछ लीजिये **(व्यवधान)**

श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया : अपनी पार्टी को तो देख लीजिये उसकी बैसाखियां टूट गई हैं **(व्यवधान)**

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: Sir, I am happy to inform the House that the Government of India is assisting the voluntary agencies to the tune of 90 per cent cost in respective areas and the remaining 10 per cent is to be borne by the NGOs. We are very much satisfied with the activities of the voluntary agencies and they are doing good work.

As the hon. Member has asked about monitoring, our Department is monitoring the agencies every time and also, we get reguiar reports from the State Governments. The State Governments were also involved in monitoring this programme. We are getting very satisfactory reports about the working of the voluntary agencies.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you are aware, there are two aspects of the problem. One is preventing of the prejudices or the malpractices which cause inconvenience to the disabled persons. The other is the question of providing positive facilities even in such places like picture galleries, museums, etc. I need not go into the incidents. But I find that the approach of the Government is a fragmented one. Therefore, my question is: Does the Government propose to review the policy, the programme, the strategy and the legislation covering the various Ministries which deal with this aspect and adopt a holistic and comprehensive approach in a positive context since the subject is of great social significance?

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: Sir, I fully agree with the Member. All these things will be taken into consideration while formulating the Bill.

शिक्षा के प्रभावकारी प्रबंधन के बारे में केन्द्रीय शिक्षा सलाहकार बोर्ड की सिफारिशें

*82. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**
डा० जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन : †

क्या **मानव संसाधन विकास** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्रीय शिक्षा सलाहकार बोर्ड की एक समिति ने शिक्षा के प्रभावी प्रबंध हेतु इसका विकेन्द्रीकरण करने की सिफारिश की है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस सिफारिश का ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) क्या इससे शिक्षा-प्रबंध में व्यापक सुधार होने की आशा है ; और

†सभा में यह प्रश्न डा० जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन द्वारा पूछा गया ।